Title: Effects of a short individually tailored counselling session for HIV prevention in gay and bisexual men receiving Hepatitis B vaccination

Version: 2 Date: 10 March 2009

Reviewer: David Bimbi

Reviewer's report:

This is well prepared manuscript which needs some editing, mostly for clarification.

See below comments:

Introduction:

Page 2
Paragraph 1
last sentences, STIs instead of STI
Paragraph 2
“(UAI) is the greatest risk…” is awkward, replace with “presents the greatest risk.”
“Others also report more risk taking,” rephrase to make it clear that similar results were found in non-Dutch samples, e.g., “Similar findings in non-Dutch samples have been reported”
“The majority of MSM in steady relationships…” This statement requires a scientific citation, if none is available, use a citation from the gay press.
“In the Netherlands, an association between a decreased perception of HIV/AIDS threat…” sentence is awkward and should be rephrased for clarity.
Page 3
“few studies showed…” rephrase, “several studies have demonstrated…”
“to offer MSM an individual counseling session…” Please clarify the focus/topic of the counseling session, it is unclear as written.

Methods

Page 4
Paragraph 1
First sentence, replace “the quasi-expermental” with “this quasi-experimental”
“Each gay and bisexual male…” Clarify if enrollment was based upon sexual identity or sexual behavior, e.g., did participants have to identify as gay or bisexual to become enrolled.
Paragraph 2
End parenthesis is missing “…relationships [11]).”

Page 5
Clarify that Baseline data was collected at first vaccination appointment.

Results:
Page 6
The authors indicate they “corrected for negotiated safety,” but it is unclear how the remainder of this subsample is characterized, e.g., both HIV negative, but without HIV negative tests after the beginning of the relationship (which would not be negotiated safety…and unfortunately a situation that leads to many cases of transmission), or if the participant was in a sero-discordant relationship. Please clarify.

Page 7.
Table 2. The results were all approaching significance (p=.10 and p=.15); the authors should comment on this in the discussion, e.g., there was simply not enough power or large enough sample to detect significant differences.

Discussion:
Page 9
Last paragraph. Use of phrase “Christian name” is problematic, particularly since the study included non-Dutch persons who may not have “Christian” names. Simply restate to say “first name.”

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests